



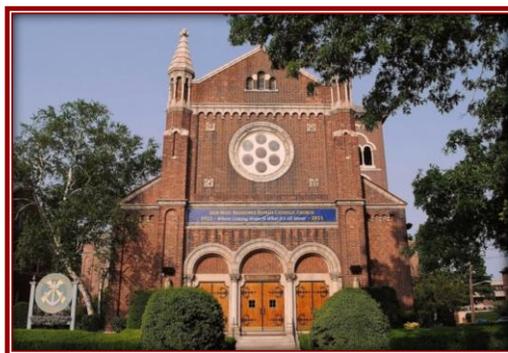
## IF TODAY YOU HEAR HIS VOICE

Just two weeks after being battered in Texas and Louisiana by Hurricane Harvey, many of our fellow Americans are preparing themselves for the onslaught of yet another natural disaster this week, Hurricane Irma! And while the temptation to surrender in defeat to the forces of nature and evil is strong, we must *remember the past with gratitude*, so that we can *live the present with enthusiasm*, and *look forward to the future with confidence*. And that is just what many of our fellow Americans if not *all* of us will do on 9/11.



Sixteen years after forces far more powerful than Harvey and Irma inflicted wounds upon the human spirit on what Pope Saint John Paul II called “a dark day in human history” (see the following page), we will remember the way *one nation, under God* came together in America’s cathedral on 14 September 2001 “to pray”, (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-0VQH8hODIo>), and how that same nation emerged from time at prayer, with eyes open to see the signs of God’s Presence in the “eloquent acts of sacrifice” that in 2017 are just as comforting and assuring as those we witnessed in 2001!

No, a united human spirit will not surrender to the forces of hardened hearts. A united human spirit will rather surrender to the Force that, regardless of a person’s race, language, sex, colour, or creed, came to the assistance of our fellow man on and in the aftermath of 9/11/01, is coming to the assistance of our fellow man in Texas and Louisiana in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey, and is already preparing to come to his assistance up and down the eastern seaboard of the United States of America in preparation for Hurricane Irma. It is a Force that *the wind, the sea, and even demons* obey! (cf. Saint Matthew VIII:23-32) It is a Force very familiar to the Church in Freeport!



Today’s bulletin cover reveals seven moments in the past when the Church in Freeport hardened not our heart to God’s call to help others. Most recently that help came in the form of \$7,500.00 sent to Nicaragua to help provide a Catholic education for children, \$6,300.00 sent to our Diocesan missions in the Dominican Republic, and \$4,400.00 sent to the Church in Texas to help people in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey! That response to God’s call for assistance is a sign that the People of God in Freeport recognize that (as Pope Saint John Paul II wrote in his Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Christifideles Laici*) “the call is a concern not only of Pastors, clergy, and men and women religious. The call is addressed to everyone: lay people as well are personally called by the Lord, from whom they receive a mission on behalf of the Church and the world.”

If today you hear His voice harden not your hearts and allow the Force that even the wind and the sea obey to be unleashed not only outside of our Parish, but right here at home in our absolutely beautiful church where we need Lectors to proclaim the Word of God, Ushers to welcome people home, Altar Servers to assist the Priest at the Altar, and Choir members to sing a new song unto the Lord, and in our Religious Education Program where we need people like you to prepare future generations to hear God’s voice and harden not their hearts.